



WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR/
SURVEYOR/HOUSING MANAGER

FOR THE YEAR.....1964

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL: -

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VICE-CHAIRMAN.....MRS. C.P.E. SAVILLE

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Mr. A.R. Maiden	Mr. J.W. Smith

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

HOLDING APPOINTMENTS OF:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

Contributing roughly:-

Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ rd day per week.
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND HOUSING MANAGER/SURVEYOR:

F. Caddick, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Dr. Noel Pearson from the North Dorset Area kindly acts as my deputy in an honorary capacity during my absence.

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne Minster.
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1964.

The list of notifiable infectious diseases is unremarkable; measles was at a low ebb following the flood tide of the previous year. Although rarely serious the disease has at the least much nuisance value and an "antibiotic umbrella", is very often raised against secondary infection. There is a prospect of a satisfactory vaccine, some advance having been made in research and development during the year. Apart from the obvious advantages to health of such a vaccine a saving to the National Drug Bill would result.

There were twenty-two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis under observation, and one non-pulmonary. There were no deaths. During 1962 in England and Wales there were 3,088 deaths from tuberculosis, about 9 per day. At the rate prevailing 100 years ago, there would have been 130,000 deaths, or 370 per day. Environmental factors such as better housing, better food, shorter hours of work, better working conditions, increasing restrictions on the sale of strong liquor, compulsory schooling, progressive raising of the school leaving age, coupled with restrictions on child labour, steadily reduced this appalling toll. The introduction of effective drugs after the last war was a notable contribution to the struggle but it is as yet too early to talk of a coup de grace to tuberculosis. Elderly men continue to present a problem, some appear to lose their resistance, and in the sixty to seventy year group the mortality rate for men is five times that for women. Smoking is considered to play a part in this, possibly due to years of tobacco induced coughing.

The improving environment is not always beneficial, and indeed the greater availability of food seems to be causally associated with increased coronary disease and diabetes. The latter shows a distinct familial tendency and the increased breeding potential conferred by the success of treatment seems destined to increase the incidence. Marriage guidance in the future will very likely expand to pre-marriage guidance, to include genetic investigation and advice.

Two deaths under 15 years of age occurred, both in fact new born babies and in neither case was the death due to an impact of the environment. They both fell in the category of prematurity or congenital abnormality, the "hard core", of infant mortality in this country, very difficult to reduce in the light of present knowledge.

There were no deaths of children from road accidents despite the notorious dangers of Wimborne's traffic problem, though in the county as a whole this environmental factor as a cause of death in children is the only one which has greatly worsened over the years, all other environmental causes of death having greatly improved as exemplified by a recent report from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. This report revealed that in 1914 environmentally determined conditions accounted for two-thirds of all deaths in the hospital, the main cause being tuberculosis, pneumonia and intestinal infections. By 1952 a similar report revealed that these conditions had improved so much that they accounted for only one seventh of the deaths.

The virus diseases are slowly yielding but there is a big field to conquer. Smallpox and poliomyelitis are preventable, one for two-hundred, the other for several years. Many enteric and upper respiratory viruses have yet to be isolated, identified and tamed. Some are responsible for the epidemics of diarrhoea and vomiting which occur so frequently.

Meanwhile research on the common cold was held up by lack of volunteers just as a tantalising and expanding glimmer of light was to be seen at the end of the tunnel.

The affluent society continues to throw up fresh problems besides overeating and smoking. It was necessary during the year to invoke Article 83 of the International Sanitary Regulations dealing with surveillance of potential smallpox victims, a few unvaccinated Mediterranean cruise participants having stepped ashore in N. Africa. There has been an increase in several parts of the world of a type of botulinism, a very dread form of food poisoning, because of a superior form of packaging of dried fish in air-tight polythene bags. The increase in the consumption of confectionery led to the importation of frozen bulked eggs from afar, together with a quota of paratyphoid germs and other Salmonellae; regulations requiring pasteurisation of frozen eggs followed. Desiccated coconut imports were found frequently to be contaminated likewise, owing to primitive sanitary conditions and methods in the countries of origin. Antibiotics have become widely available to cattle and regulations became necessary to limit the penicillin content of milk. Resistant germs are being cultured by administration of other antibiotics to cattle, and man himself may find this practice rebounding upon both himself and his cattle. Meat was dusted with certain vitamins because they kept the meat red and fresh looking; overdoing this caused mysterious flushing in some people with attendant anxieties about their health or age, calling for more regulations. So much petrol fumes swirl about our highways that significant quantities of lead from antiknock ingredients have been found on lettuces grown alongside highways in America. No regulations as yet!

The programme of films and discussions to discourage children from smoking was continued during the year, the junior school being included this time as well as the secondary modern school, and the effort was concentrated on the ten to twelve year olds. There is some evidence that the warning is taken quite seriously by some children of this age. The Surgeon General of the U.S.A. Public Health Service reported some impact upon adolescents of the American Report on smoking, and a 12% drop in cigarette smoking.

There were four deaths from lung cancer, maintaining the sustained high death rate from this condition in Wimborne in recent years. The following table reveals this:-

Death Rate, Cancer of Lungs, Wimborne U.D. - Years 1954 to 1964.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1954.....	2	-
1955.....	-	1
1956.....	-	-
1957.....	1	-
1958.....	1	-
1959.....	1	-
1960.....	4	-
1961.....	4	-
1962.....	3	1
1963.....	3	-
1964.....	4	-

It is a matter for speculation what caused the excessive increase which began in 1960. Before that the crude rate averaged about 0.25 per 1000 population. For five years it has averaged about 1 per 1,000 population. The crude rate for Bournemouth is about 0.6, that for Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District has recently been about 0.5, and Blandford Borough and Rural District about 0.3.

The annual national death rate from lung cancer rose to about 27,000 in 1964. Over three quarters of all men smoke. Less than a half of doctors smoke. During 1963/4 tobacco tax accounted for nearly one seventh of the total Government taxation receipts.

In 1963 the National Health Service cost £1000 million. £132 millions were spent on mental health, including Local Health Authority community care, drugs and general practitioners' time. The mental hospitals took about four fifths of this, leaving £27 millions as the total expenditure on the vast realm of mental health outside hospitals, including the anxiety neuroses which are in varying degree crippling and much more common than frank psychoses. The costs of sickness absence due to mental ill health are rising. Certification of sickness absence tends to magnify the physical component at the expense of the mental because the latter is still a National Taboo. The real cost is therefore heavily concealed. The concept of mental ill-health, particularly the neuroses, is too abstract to be widely understood, based as/ it

it is on the sort of adjustment that each individual makes to the trials and tribulations of life. It is impossible to pinpoint a clearly defined target on which to spend money in research but basically the human being is an infinitely complex chemical laboratory capable of continual adaptation to the multitudinous effects of the environment, and the more money that is spent on research into the basic chemical processes the sooner we shall have the power to influence from outside the intrinsic processes which are found to be faulty.

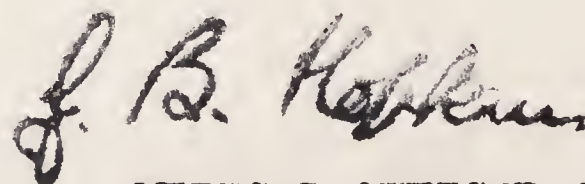
Meanwhile the impact upon District Councils lies mainly through their housing functions under the Housing Acts, and through certain Public Health Act functions. Obviously one of the most important and immediate environmental influences is the house, and every general practitioner would frequently be very grateful for the power to write a prescription for a house rather than for medicine. The Council's efforts in this direction are therefore to be seen as very important factors in the advancement of the mental health of the community, and the serious deficiencies in the country as a whole are to be viewed in the opposite light.

By 1972 there are likely to be over one million people, mostly women, in England and Wales, who have passed their eightieth birthday, and by 1985 the number of over sixty-fives will have risen by two million to some 7,650,000. The community will be as well able to care for this increase as it is now owing to a comparable increase in the productive age groups and a probable extension of the system of employing married women. There seems therefore to be a very solidly assured future for the Council's flatlets and bungalows for old people, and a large unknown credit, impossible to reduce to £.s.d., from their contribution to mental and physical health.

It is doubly unfortunate for the health of the nation that the land shortage is creating a new class distinction, the new pashas and peasants, those who have land with planning permission and the rest.

There follows a brief resume of the work of the Public Health Inspector prepared by Mr. Caddick, and in conclusion a tabular statement of notices served by him together with the results achieved.

SEPTEMBER, 1965



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SECTION A

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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres).....	653
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....	4,130
Total number of estimated houses at 31/12/64.....	1,360
Rateable value at 1st April, 1964.....	£189,579
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£748

LIVE BIRTHS

Comparative Statistics

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Wimborne Minster</u>	<u>Administra- tive County</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Number registered	90	51	39			
Legitimate.....	83	48	35			
Illegitimate.....	7	3	4			
Standardised rate.....				23.3	18.4	15.9

STILLBIRTHS

Number registered	1	1	-
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE

Number registered	2	-	2
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DEATHS

Number registered	56	29	27
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Standardised rate.....	11.4	11.5	12.1
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Comparability Factors

Births.....	1.18
Deaths.....	0.85

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from the Civic Centre.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

This is situated at Boscombe and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water. The Laboratory took part with others in an extensive investigation into the prevalence of food poisoning organisms in meat and their transference to humans and a report was published during the year confirming that this sequence of events can occur and suggesting preventive action.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Wimborne every fortnight.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

A local organiser for the Rural District and Wimborne Urban District attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service which has steadily grown since its inception.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles.....21
Whooping Cough. 7

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

PULMONARY

Males.....11
Females.....11

NON-PULMONARY

Males..... 0
Females..... 1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS.

<u>POLIOMYELITIS</u>					<u>DIPHTHERIA</u>		<u>TETANUS</u>		<u>WHOOPING COUGH</u>		<u>SMALLPOX</u>	
<u>ORAL</u>		<u>SALK</u>										
3 doses.	R.	P.	3rd.	4th.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
110	120	--	-	-	71	77	87	80	71	49	68	7

P = Primary. R = Reinforcing dose.

SECTION D.

STATISTICAL TABLES.....1964

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	4	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	5	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	3	6
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	5	4
20. Other heart disease.....	2	1
21. Other circulatory disease.....	2	3
24. Bronchitis.....	2	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	1	5
34. All other accidents.....	2	-
35. Suicide.....	1	-
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<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>27</u>

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1964

FOOD INSPECTIONS: Twenty condemnation certificates were issued during the year. The following weights of food were condemned:

	cwts.	qrts.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat, Poultry, and Meat Products	-	1	17	-
Fish and fish products	-	-	19	6
Fruit, vegetables, fruit and vegetable products.....	1	1	25	2
Tinned milk	-	-	5	6
Butter, margarine and other fats	-	-	12	-
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TOTALS:	2	0	22	14

REFUSE COLLECTION: Our refuse is nearly all taken to Poole for incineration or tipping by arrangement with that Borough. Some combustible material is burnt at our depot to reduce costs. Some cardboard salvage was carried out during the year but is not an economic proposition. The following give some of the relevant statistics for the year ended 31st March 1965:-

Tonnage to Poole.....	1062
Income for trade refuse, salvage.....	£230
Total costs (as my cost analysis) less income (including £980 paid to Poole Corp.).....	£4527
Cost per ton.....	£3. 2s.6d.
Cost per head of population per week.....	4.968d.
Cost per hereditament per week.....	11.304d.

The cost per ton is actually somewhat less, as there is no record of the tonnage which we disposed of ourselves by burning or otherwise.

SEWER SWABS: Periodic sewer swabbing was commenced in September. During the last quarter of the year 16 swabs were examined by the public health laboratory, two of which were affected with salmonella organisms.

INSECT AND PEST CONTROL: The following Table shows the amount of rodent control work carried out during the year.

	Type of Property			Total
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Business	
Inspections	5	1144	240	1387
Infested properties	2	126	8	136
Total treatments	2	240	10	252

One Police cell and van were treated during the year for vermin infestation.

IMPROVEMENTS - COUNCIL PROPERTIES: The improvements to Council Houses have been completed. One hundred and twenty dwellings were involved. These were provided with internal water closets, wash-basins, and new fireplaces with back boilers and hot water systems. Reconstruction was necessary in all cases to provide the internal W.Cs. 100 of these previously had pail closets and 20 external water closets. For 50 houses completely new soil drainage systems were installed and approximately half of the bungalows had new drainage provided.

In twenty houses new larders were constructed. Bare brick walls of kitchens, bathrooms, and toilets in 70 houses have been plastered. Tenants were generally persuaded to carry out internal decorations which in most cases had been delayed for a long time by tenants waiting for improvements. In some groups the Committee instructed me to carry out redecoration of kitchen, living room and bathroom after disturbance and in twenty cases old baths were removed. The cost of the work is as follows:

Contract Work

30 houses in Hardy Crescent	£10,069. 12. 3d.
Amount of expenditure allowable for grant	7,600. 0. 0d.

Work by direct labour

40 houses and 50 bungalows	} £20,351. 13. 3d.
Labour, materials and sub-contract work	
Overheads	1,443. 12. 9d.
	£21,795. 6. 0d.
Amount of expenditure allowable for grant	£21,600. 0. 0d.

REPAIRS - HOUSING ESTATE: More detailed records are now being kept. The following information for the first full year ended 31st August 1965 may be of interest.

The recorded total number of jobs carried out as the result of tenants' complaints is 594. (This does not include "programmed work" e.g. exterior painting, or various small jobs carried out by workmen without specific orders, say another 50)

Details are:

To Structure	<u>79 (13.3%)</u> walls etc. 23, chimneys 12, roofs 25, R.W. wastes 16., floors etc. 3.
Structural finishings and fixtures	<u>124 (20.9%)</u> doors and windows 89, glazing 8., plastering etc. 18., joinery items 9.
Water and sanitary services	<u>181 (30.5%)</u> water supply and sanitary fittings 164., soil wastes 17.
Other domestic services	<u>144 (24.2%)</u> electric wiring, lighting, points etc. 39., gas piping and points 18., space and water heating 67., cookers 20.
External works	<u>53 (8.9%)</u> drains etc. 13., paths 6., fences, walls gates 23, clothes posts and lines 11.
Dustbin renewals	<u>13 (2.2%)</u>

The above work affected 267 of the Council's 337 dwellings. For the first time County Court action against outgoing tenants for costs of repairs was taken. Orders were made by the Court for approximately £75 of which over £50 was for repairs caused by tenant's neglect.

PAINTING COUNCIL HOUSES: When the improvement scheme was completed systematic painting of Council houses was resumed. Approximately 42 houses were painted during the year. Since 1960 an average of about 40 houses (nearly 12%) per year have been painted. This amounts to an eight year cycle for the estate as a whole. This is a better average than previously attained, but a rate of about 55 dwellings per year is desirable.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND FLOODING:

(1) A new 18" surface water sewer was put along Old Road, from Victoria Rd., to the River in order to replace the existing defective and inadequate sewer. This will alleviate the previous periodic flooding in Old Road. Records show that some flooding could still recur. If the river reached a very high level from previous rainfall the system could be partly surcharged with water and heavy storms could then cause temporary flooding. This conjugation of circumstances is very rare so flooding is now unlikely.

2. The Greenclose Leigh Common system of surface water drainage was investigated. Ditches were found to be neglected, and inadequate pipes and culverts had been put in by owners over the years. These were the causes of some of the flood nuisance in this area. The Council authorised the service of Notices under the Public Health and Drainage Acts, and communications were made with all interested parties but at the end of the year there was no progress to report. Efforts to deal with this intractable problem will continue.

FACTORIES, OFFICES AND SHOPS:

No Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories regarding matters which the Council should enforce in factories in the area.

Premises were registered during the year under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, advice was given to Owners and Occupiers on plans submitted, but no inspections were made.

Number of Premises registered, with number of employees, were as follows:

Retail Shops	85	344 employees
Offices	42	249 employees
Wholesale shops and warehouses	6	51 employees
Catering establishments and canteens	6	30 employees
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TOTALS:	139 premises	674 employees
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The number of employees were 299 male 375 female.

NOTICES served during the year:

NATURE OF REQUIREMENT OR CONTRAVENTIONS.	INFORMAL NOTICES		STATUTORY NOTICES ORDERS etc.	WARNING LETTERS	COURT SUMMONS HEARD
	VERBAL	WRITTEN			
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT</u>					
Nuisance abatement		6	1		
Drainage and sanitary appliances	2	4			3
Noise	1	3			
Smoke		1			
Rubbish		1	1		
Smells	1	1			
<u>FOOD CONTROL</u>					
Food Hygiene	4	9			1
Food complaints				4	
<u>HOUSING ACTS</u>					
Unfit properties			1		
Excessive multiple occupation			1		
Fitness certificates			1		
TOTALS	8	25	5	4	4

CONTRAVENTIONS remedied are shown in the following table of the results of service of Notices (including outstanding Notices at end 1963)

NATURE OF REQUIREMENTS OR CONTRAVENTIONS	INDIVIDUAL DEFECTS OR CONTRAVENTIONS REMEDIED				TOTAL
	By repair or reconstruction	By demoli- tion	By additional facilities	By other means	
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS</u>					
Nuisance abatement	36				36
-Food storage			1		1
Drainage and sanitary appliances	9		6		15
Dangerous or dilapidated structures	4	1			5
Noise				5	5
Smoke				1	1
Smell				1	1
Rubbish				2	2
<u>FOOD CONTROL</u>					
Food Hygiene Regulations and Byelaws	8	6 ^x	19	18	51
<u>HOUSING ACTS</u>					
Unfit properties	9	2	6		17
Excessive multiple occupation				1	1
TOTALS:	66	9	32	28	135

x unsatisfactory kitchen demolished and new one erected.

